



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot *Washington, DC*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

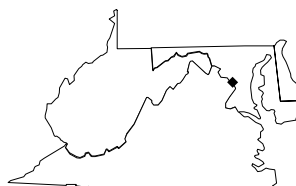
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Washington, District of Columbia, for a Brownfields Pilot. Approximately 71% of the City's (District's) population (543,213) is minority and the unemployment rate averages 8.2%. Over the past 10 years, the District has experienced significant declines in retail/wholesale trade and the manufacturing, finance, and real estate industries. In addition, approximately 157,000 residents left the District between 1970 and 1990. The District's economy is confined by its small geographic area (63 miles), increased competition from neighboring jurisdictions, and a restricted tax base (the Federal government owns 41% of the land). The District believes that reuse of vacant and available land is essential to revitalizing the area's economy.

Although a comprehensive inventory has not been completed, the District believes that it owns approximately 10.8 million square feet of underused industrial and commercial space. The Pilot plans to target several properties in its Northeast and Southeast quadrants for cleanup and redevelopment, including a former coal storage and transfer facility located in Northeast and a privately owned landfill located in Southeast. Because the Northeast site is located within a Federally sponsored Enterprise Zone, the former coal storage and transfer facility project has

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Washington,
District of Columbia*

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The District plans to target two sites in its Northeast and Southeast quadrants for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

access to additional Federal and District funding opportunities. These funds can be leveraged to assist in cleanup and redevelopment. The privately owned landfill is located in the Anacostia community in the Southeast area, which has an unemployment rate of 15.9%—the highest in the District.

OBJECTIVES

Because of the complexities and high interest within the District government, the Health Department is the lead agency for the project and will coordinate with the many local government, public, and private stakeholders in the District on cleanup and redevelopment.

The District's main objective is to create a long-term, self-sustaining, efficient redevelopment program that will serve to stimulate the local economy. To aid in this initiative, the DC Department of Health formed a Multi-Agency District Task Force to address brownfields issues. The Pilot will lead the project and has identified a range of activities it will pursue, including establishing a brownfields database, conducting site assessments, and administering community outreach programs and activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Establishing a brownfields database to identify sites and any use restrictions, and to track cleanup activities, program accomplishments, and other pertinent information;
- Conducting at least two site assessments, including site identification and characterization, to form a comprehensive site assessment plan; and
- Administering a broad-based community outreach effort, including public meetings, forums, and notices.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.